

SEPTEMBER 2022

# THE SPOKESWOMAN

<https://davis-ca.aauw.net>

## AAUW Davis Branch Embraces New Connections in 2022-23

*By Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt*

As we enter into the 2022-23 AAUW year, it is time to renew our commitment to accomplishing the mission of AAUW through our branch programs and member involvement. I believe that the key element in our success as a vibrant AAUW branch is through our personal relationships and connections. Embracing the values of AAUW enables us to share a solid common ground on which to build strong relationships and connections that can lead to positive impacts for so many women.

A simple but wonderful example occurred in July. We suddenly found ourselves short of volunteers to welcome and sign in campers for the Tech Trek Camp, which was held in person on the UCD campus, July 17th - 23rd. Two phone calls were successful in the recruitment of a former AAUW member and Cathy, a new member. Both women instantly stepped up to fill in as volunteers and were thankful that I had reached out to them. They expressed excitement at being able to see first hand the joy of the campers and their families. My guess is that they will be there next year, too. It is these connections that we make with others that I believe will lead to increased visibility in our local community and ideally rekindle membership.

## In This Issue:

[click to be directed to article](#)

[AAUW Davis Branch Embraces New Connections](#)

[August 13 Book Group Meeting Recap](#)

[August Celebrate the 19th Recap](#)

[Save the Date! September 24th Friends and Family Gathering](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[UNA Updates](#)

[AAUW National News](#)

[AAUW CA News](#)

## September- October Calendar

**Monday, September 19th** at 5:30 pm: Celebrate the 19th

**Friday, September 23**, 10 am to 12 noon: UNA Western Region Climate Forum

**Saturday, September 24th**, 3:30 pm to 6 pm: Annual Friends and Family Event

**Saturday, October 8th**, 9 am: Book Group Meeting

**October 2nd**, 11 am to 6 pm: International Festival at Central Park

**October 8**, 4 pm: Virtual Sahara Walks

**October 9**, 4-7 pm: Woodland Branch "Bites and Sips for Scholarships"

**October 15, 22, 23, and November 12**: AAUW Fund Events

**October 19**, 5:30 pm: Celebrate the 19th - Discussion on Abortion Rights with Marty West (details to follow)

**October 21**: UNA-USA virtual Inter-Generational Model UN

**October 22**: Annual Davis Branch Yard Sale

# AAUW Davis Branch Embraces New Connections in 2022-23 Continued

I encourage everyone to share the values of AAUW with their friends and families. Invite them to join us for the General Meeting on September 24th at the Cannery at 3:30 where we will share a meal and hear from our Davis Tech Trek campers about their experience and highlight upcoming events. Gail is personally extending an invitation to this year's campers and their families letting them know how much we look forward to hearing about their recent Tech Trek experiences. To extend and renew our connections, Estelle has updated the contact list of former Davis Tech Trek campers so that the branch will be able to reach out and invite former Davis Tech Trek campers and their families to join us for this grand event on September 24th. Imagine if all ten years of former Tech Trek campers were able to attend!!! The stories and new connections would be fantastic. A likely bonus is that they will all become active AAUW members.

Alexandra is holding the reins on updating and dispersing the AAUW welcome packet to new members and others that are interested in knowing more about the workings of our local branch. The welcome packet was an idea suggested by Verena at the board planning retreat two years ago with the goal to assist new members or potential members gain a better idea of what AAUW is all about at both the local, state, and national levels. Once again, it is the connections and working together that is making this happen.

To record and remember the long history of amazing women in our local branch, Juliana, Rhonda, and Gail are sorting and sifting through many photos of major AAUW events. The scrap book will honor all of those who supported and led the way in the Davis AAUW branch. It takes a team that has many memories of involvement with Davis AAUW women to create a treasure of our history. Don't be surprised if our current history scrapbook team reaches out to really long-time members to get their input and memories included in the scrapbook. Of course, the next step will be to create a digital version so that everyone has access to our history.

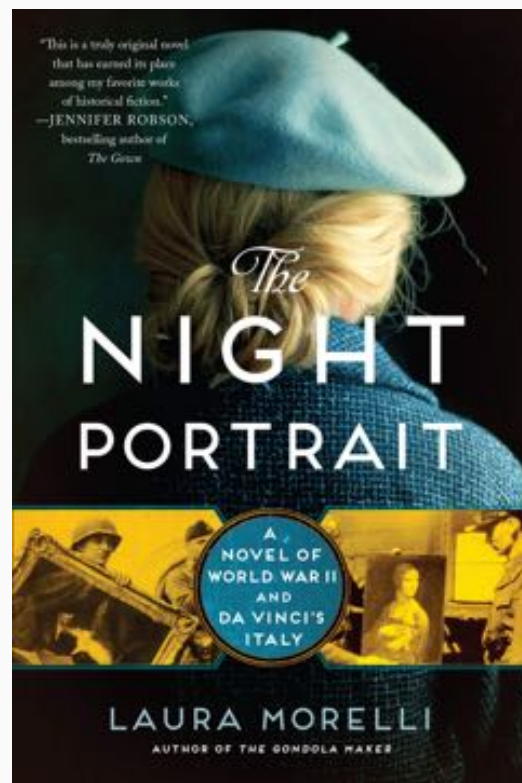
Juliana, a dual member, with both Davis and Woodland is engaged with the expansion of activities between our two regional branches. The Book Group of each branch is open to both branches, as well as special speaker presentations and events. I have lovely memories of attending the Woodland branch social and fund raiser at Matchbook Winery when I was a new Davis member. Now, I get to see and share ideas with many of the Woodland members in the Book Group meetings and recall how thankful I was that so many Woodland branch members volunteered at the Fall International Festival in the Davis Central Park in October 2019. It really is wonderful having members from both branches support you when you are involved in something new. I could not have managed to organize the International Festival without everyone's support.

This leads me to the exciting news that the International Festival is returning in person this October 2nd at Central Park in Davis. Once again this is quite an event. Please, invite your friends and family to savor the variety of booths, music, books, dance, and art. AAUW Davis branch will be there next to the United Nations Association Booth. There is a special bond between AAUW Davis and the United Nations Association. We support and participate in many events together as so many of our values are shared in support of the lives of women pursuing higher education and empowering women to achieve their dreams. Again it is the connections and relationships that we create between each other that make the difference.

## August 13th Book Group Meeting Recap

Members met on August 13th to discuss *The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and da Vinci's Italy* by Laura Morelli. The meeting started with a few personal updates from members. Karen Lemcke recently traveled to Ireland with a dear friend who was researching her family history. They visited the town that her friend's great great grandparents left to come to America. Helen Thompson spoke briefly about her trip to Wright's Lake.

The book is a dual-timeline historical fiction novel about one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous paintings, Portrait of a Lady with an Ermine, and the woman who saved it from Nazi destruction during World War II. Carolyn Van Hoecke, Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Estelle Shiroma, Rhonda Reed, Rose Mary Forehand, and Marti Abbott participated in the discussion about the actual portrait and the challenges of reading a book with timelines shifting between the 1400s to the 1900s. The book offers a hint of romance by some fraternizing between the art historian protagonist and Nazi soldiers, as well as one of the Monuments Men, hoping for safety. Those who listened to the audiobook said that hearing different voices used for the characters helped them to understand the storyline.



*“I have come to accept that war is inevitable. Beauty is fleeting. Only love and art endure.”*

*- Laura Morelli*

Artists from the 1400s often painted their subjects in side view as opposed to full frontal view. When a subject was painted, that image was personalized by the artist. There were three variations of the Portrait of a Lady painting based on the placement and size of the ermine. Morelli, as a serious researcher and historian, gave life to the model as an object of desire over time. Barbara Durst recommended a book titled “Leonardo da Vinci” written by Walter Isaacson, a well known author who also wrote a book about Steve Jobs. Isaacson notes that da Vinci traveled with his paintings, some of which he left unfinished. He studied the human body through cadavers and wrote private notes using a mirror to write in reverse.

## August 13th Book Group Meeting Recap Continued

The discussion then turned to Hitler and his desire for stolen works of art as portrayed in the movie, “Monuments Men.” In the movie, the Allies (an international military coalition with principal members from the U.K., U.S., Soviet Union, and China) from the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program were tasked with finding and saving art and other culturally important items to prevent the Nazis from destroying or stealing them during World War II. Through the taking of Poland by the German-Soviet invasion of 1939, a significant number of art objects that are part of Poland’s cultural heritage were stolen. Hitler wanted art, as did his personal attorney, Hans Frank known as ‘The Butcher of Occupied Poland,’ who gave away many art treasures before being hanged. Brief mention was made about how soldiers who experienced many atrocities of war did not want to discuss any part of World War II.

The book group meeting ended with members enjoying pictures from Helen’s trip to Chile with her daughters.

The September book group selection, *A Ballad of Love and Glory* by Reyna Grande, was discussed on September 10th via Zoom. The author, a Woodland resident, joined us for this engaging meeting. Look for a recap of our conversation with Reyna in the October Spokeswoman.

We have not yet selected books for October, November, and December. However, in the interest of time and in response to members who want a break from reading WW II historical fiction, Estelle suggested *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus for the October book discussion. The book is about a woman scientist faced with gender equity issues in the workplace in the 1960s. Garmus is skilled at writing with humor while tackling injustices that we, as AAUW members, are still working to change.

All are welcome to join the book group discussions, which are held by Zoom on the second Saturday of each month at 9 am.





## August Celebrate the 19th: Summer Travels

Members shared their summer travel experiences at the August Celebrate the 19th Zoom meeting. Despite some screen-sharing glitches, the meeting went off as planned. The first person to share was Rose Mary Forehand, who showed her photos of sunsets and thunderstorms in North Carolina. She described making pickles, the wedding barn venue at her daughter's home, and a few family scenes. Then she shared highlights of her travels to England and Scotland. Rose Mary saw the world's largest collection of tea cups and saucers at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the National Trust sites in the Cotswold. In Scotland, she visited the Avebury Stone Circles and Henge. She also mentioned seeing the The Throne Room at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the royal family in Scotland.

Marti Abbott had computer problems and had to postpone sharing details of her latest trip to Honduras, where she volunteered for the Chispa Project.

Aislinn Sarhang, one of our UCD student interns, traveled to Italy in June with her parents, who celebrated their 25th anniversary in Rome (where they met). She shared part of her family's celebration in pictures and explained some of the gorgeous art (Vatican Museum), street scenes, special ruins of the Coliseum and Pantheon, and chapel ceilings. Aislinn also enjoyed the street cats and special gelato shops. She travels to New York next.

Sahiba Kaur, former AAUW at UCD student organization President, joined us and expressed interest in working with students in the coming year. She shared pictures of her trip to Austin, Texas. We enjoyed pictures of her kayaking on Ladybird Lake and Lake Travis with views of Austin and some opulent homes of the wealthy. Sahiba felt Austin was a good place for young people.

Karen Lemcke commented on Austin and reminded us how Ladybird Johnson worked to beautify America and had invited reporters to discuss her projects. Karen had been impressed with Austin's strong women, including Liz Carpenter, who worked for LBJ, a President who was proud of his work on civil rights.

The conversation led to a discussion of drinks enjoyed during everyone's travels. Rose Mary showed us Rose Lemonade from England. Shahla mentioned beverages from Iran containing rosewater with sour cherries and tea with rosewater syrup. Persian ice cream and gelato are also sweet treats from Iran.

Rhonda Reed showed us photos of clouds in Missouri where she entered competitions with her hunting dogs.

All happily shared their travel experiences and members enjoyed hearing about them.

# Save the Date!



## AAUW Davis Annual Friends and Family Gathering

**Date:** Saturday, September 24th

**Time:** 3:30pm - 6:00pm

**Location:** The Cannery Ranch House,  
2000 Cannery Loop, Davis, CA 95616

\*RSVP to [davis-ca@aauw.net](mailto:davis-ca@aauw.net) by Wednesday, September 21st

Come kick off the AAUW new year at our annual Friends and Family Gathering!

This year's Tech Trekkers will be reporting on their experiences at camp.

Food and beverages will be provided



[davis-ca@aauw.net](mailto:davis-ca@aauw.net)



<https://davis-ca.aauw.net>

# Upcoming Events



## Celebrate AAUW at the International Festival

The Davis Branch will participate in the annual International Festival at Central Park in Davis on Sunday October 2nd from 11 am to 6 pm.

This is a free event that features community organizations and diverse cultural performances for all ages throughout the day.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the AAUW table in two-hour shifts starting at 9 am. For more information, contact Stephanie or Estelle at [davis-ca@aauw.net](mailto:davis-ca@aauw.net) An email will also be sent with more details on help needed.



## Annual Fall Yard Sale is Coming!

Start cleaning out your closets and get ready for the Davis Branch Fall Yard Sale to be held on **Saturday, October 22nd**. Profits from the yard sale will be allocated to our Tech Trek and Branch Projects funds. We are looking ahead to 2022-2023 to provide scholarships for four incoming 8th graders to attend the UCD Tech Trek camp. The Branch Fund supports our Mission in a variety of ways, including providing funds for our UCD Student Organization members to participate in AAUW leadership opportunities, offering stipends to help members attend National or State conventions, and local projects like Sahaya Walks. The Board can also direct those funds to supplement a Tech Trek scholarship or an AAUW Funds donation.

**What to donate?** Popular items include tools, jewelry, bicycles, toys, and student-oriented furniture. Please be sure that donated items are clean and gently used.

Information on location and hours of the yard sale, how to price articles, and when/where to drop off items is forthcoming.



## Mark Your Calendar: AAUW Woodland Fundraiser

Show your community support by attending the upcoming AAUW Woodland Branch "Bites and Sips for Scholarships" event on October 9th from 4-7 pm. If you cannot attend, donations are welcome to support the small but mighty AAUW Woodland branch in their fundraising.

"Bites and Sips for Scholarships" will be held in the courtyard at the Historic Hotel Woodland at 436 Main Street in Woodland. The entrance to the courtyard and parking are at the back of the hotel. Tickets are \$40 and include hot and cold appetizers and a complimentary glass of wine (additional wine available for purchase). The event will be catered by Cracchiolo's of Woodland and will feature live music by Western Lights. AAUW Woodland "Bites and Sips for Scholarships" supports educational scholarships at Woodland Community College and Tech Trek (a program sending middle school girls to a seven day math and science (STEM) summer program at Sonoma State University).

If you wish to purchase a ticket or make a donation, contact Juliana Wells at [carwells@thegrid.net](mailto:carwells@thegrid.net) or (530) 758-3011. The deadline for purchasing tickets is September 29th.

**\*\*Bring cash or a check for the silent auction.\*\***

Building on achievements of UNA's unprecedented Western Regions Climate meetings last year, a team of UNA leaders in California and Hawaii has been collaborating in planning a virtual forum to be held on **September 23**, 10 AM to 12 noon (PDT): "**Mutually Assured Survival: Priorities for Climate Action.**" Please see the Save the Date flyer to the right. A subsequent flyer with program information and registration link will be circulated for distribution as soon as available or you can go directly to [www.unawestclimate.org](http://www.unawestclimate.org) to register.

The virtual forum is timed to coincide with the end of the UN's Climate Week in New York and before the UN's 27th International Climate Conference in Egypt (COP27) in early November. With high-level speakers as in 2021, the forum aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the most urgent solutions to planetary warming and climate change that already threaten all countries and people (as demonstrated by daily news about climate catastrophes).

As part of the Forum a UNA Climate Declaration, endorsed by all chapters in our region, will be distributed to national and state legislators as well as concerned local leaders. During an August 31 NorCal Division meeting further details for collaboration were discussed.

A rare opportunity was provided for UNA members who could travel to San Francisco on September 8 to attend a presentation by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Representative of the U.S. to the UN, at the Fairmont Hotel where the UN Charter was negotiated. The topic of her major policy address was A New Vision for a New Era of the United Nations. Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield announced six principles to be promoted for Security Council members, including defending the UN Charter, engaging pragmatically with ALL members, refraining from using the veto (except in extreme cases), demonstrating leadership in defending human rights at home and abroad, enhancing cooperation and transparency, and advancing efforts to reform the Security Council by demonstrating flexibility. In advocating the underlying meaning of the Charter to serve, not to dominate, she quoted Harry Truman: "*To have a good neighbor - be one.*"

Reminder: On **October 21** the UNA-USA national office will host a virtual **Inter-Generational Model UN** in which all ages can participate under expert leadership. No special UN expertise is necessary to be a delegate. Step into the shoes of UN ambassadors and debate a range of issues on the UN agenda such as food insecurity, children's health and safety, the refugee crisis and oceans and climate. If interested in participating, check future updates at [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org) or contact Verena Borton at [verenaborton@gmail.com](mailto:verenaborton@gmail.com)





# AAUW National News



## A Leading Voice on Student Debt

Following President Biden’s recent announcement about forgiving federal student loan debt, media outlets everywhere are turning to AAUW as a leading voice on this timely and important issue. AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell wrote an op-ed published in the Miami Herald and spoke with Good Morning America and Politico about how Black women are disproportionately burdened by student debt. In addition, AAUW research was cited in ABC News, CNBC, Time, The Hill and more. You can also check out Blackwell’s appearance on the Power Station podcast, where she talks about AAUW’s importance in the fight for gender equity.

AAUW released new research highlighting why action on student debt is desperately needed—and entirely aligned with our mission. The survey shows women of color are encountering the “perfect storm” of challenges repaying their loans, due to the combination of the racial wealth gap, gender and racial pay gaps, and economic instability caused by the pandemic.



## Support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would require employers to make reasonable accommodations to protect the health of pregnant workers, such as letting them carry bottles of water or take restroom breaks. This critical legislation passed the House of Representatives more than a year ago, but it continues to stall in the Senate. Tell our leaders that pregnant workers cannot wait another day.



## Rallying for Reproductive Rights

Being able to choose whether and when to become a parent improves women’s well-being and fosters economic security. Learn about AAUW’s history and continued advocacy for reproductive rights and how you can join the fight for reproductive freedom with our [newly updated toolkit](#).

# AAUW CA News

## Public Policy Update



Join our Voter Education/Get Out the Vote campaign! Over the next several weeks, the Public Policy Committee will send you ready-made, great-looking, action-oriented election messages for your social media accounts. All you have to do is follow the simple instructions to post and share them.

## AAUW Fund Events

Join us in welcoming 39 California fellows and grant recipients at four fall Zoom events! California fellowship and grant recipients who will share their stories at four virtual AAUW Fund events in October and November. See what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support and learn a bit about their work on sustainable environments, global migration, refugee studies, and 36 other topics. Holding our annual AAUW Fund Events via Zoom has opened them up to far greater participation. More members can log on and hear presentations by more stimulating fellows and grant recipients. Plan on joining us to learn what your Fund dollars are supporting.

Check out this year's AAUW Fund Event on three Saturdays and one Sunday:

Saturday: October 15th, October 22nd, and November 12th 10-noon

Sunday: October 23rd 1-3 pm

Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register for one or more events.

## Tech Trek in the News

Tech Trek was given a great opportunity to be featured in an article by The Los Altos Town Crier newspaper! Positive publicity is a great boost to AAUW and the goals that we have. Read The Los Altos Town Crier newspaper's article on Tech Trek [HERE](#).

**BE AS ACTIVE AS YOU CAN, BUT STAY A MEMBER.**